

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6799

SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//PRIORITY

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//DSAA//

USCINCEUR VAHINGER GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: DELIVERY OF M113A1 SERIES ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APC)

REF: KUWAIT 4988

WHEN MEETING WITH KUWAIT MINISTER OF DEFENSE SHAIKH SA'AD ABDULLA DEC 8 ON ANOTHER QUESTION, I ALSO RAISED MATTER OF GOK'S INTEREST, AS EXPRESSED BY CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF MAJ. GEN. MUBARAK, IN EARLIER DELIVERY OF 161 APC'S (REFTEL).

2. I TOLD SHAIKH SA'AD THAT DURING MY RESENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON I HAD EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING FOR EARLIER DELIVERY OF SMALL NUMBER OF APC'S IN SUMMER OF 1977 WITH REMAINDER TO FOLLOW IN 1979. I INDICATED THAT THERE WAS SUPPORT IN STATE AND DEFENSE FOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IF THIS WERE SATISFACTORY TO KUWAIT MOD.

3. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON, I RAISED THIS MATTER WIT MANUFACTOUER'S (FMC) REP. HE INDICATED THAT, ON STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL SALE, FMC COULD PROVIDE 20 TO 25 APC'S FOR DELIVERY IN MAY 1977 WITH THE REST TO BE DELIVERED BY END OF FIRST QUARTER 1978. VEHICLE TO BE DELIVERED WOULD BE STANDARD U.S. ARMY APC SERIES M-113A1 WITH STANDARD COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND ARAMENT. ALSO INCLUDED WOULD BE FIVE YEAR SUPPLY SPARE PARTS. FMS, IF DESIRED, COULD ALSO PROVIDE TRAINING, EVEN IN ARABIC. IN ORDER TO MEET PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF DELIVERIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, FMC REP HAD INDICATED THAT CONTRACT WOULD HAVE TO BE

SIGNED BY JANUARY 1. IF MOD WERE INTERESTED, EMBASSY COULD
ARRANGE FOR FMC REP TO COME TO KUWAIT AT AN EARLY DATE IN DECEMBER.

4. SHAIKH SA'AD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN FMC PROPOSAL.
HIS PRINCIPAL CONCERN, HOWEVER, WAS ASSURANCE OF INSPECTION OF
VEHICLES BY USG. I INFORMED HIM THAT I HAD RAISED THIS MATTER
WITH DOD/ISA/DSAA (LGEN FISH) AND HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT U.S.
INSPECTION COULD BE PROVIDED. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF
COMMERCIAL PURCHASE WERE NOT DEEMED DESIRABLE, IT WOULD BE
POSSIBLE TO EXPLORE FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OF OBTAINING APC'S
THRU FMS RPT FMS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

5. SHAIKH SA'AD THEN INDICATED THAT MOD (MAJ. GEN. MUBARAK)
WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS FMC PROPOSAL WITH THEIR REP AND
ASKED THAT I ARRANGE FOR HIS VISIT TO KUWAIT ASAP.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST AHT NEA/ARP CONTACT WASHINGTON
FMC REP MARTIN PADOLINO AND ASK THAT HE ARRANGE FOR EARLIEST
POSSIBLE VISIT TO KUWAIT BY FMC REP PREPARED TO OFFER GOK
CONTRACT FOR 161 APC'S. (ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED
ANY INDICATION OF MOD INTEREST IN OBTAINING VULCAN ANTI-
AIRCRAFT SYSTEM, SUGGEST THAT FMC REP COMING TO KUWAIT BE
PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SALE OF THIS WEAPON TO GOK.)
FMC REP SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT EMBASSY UPON ARRIVAL.
PLEASE INFORM US OF HIS ETA. EMBASSY PREPARED OFFER ASSISTANCE
IN OBTAINING HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS IF DESIRED.
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